

October 17, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Chairman  
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee  
1522 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock  
Ranking Member  
Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee  
1522 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member McClintock and the Members of the Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources:

The undersigned organizations and businesses write to express our full support of the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* (H.R.3742), and respectfully request that you support and advance this important piece of legislation through the House Committee on Natural Resources to help conserve America's most vulnerable fish and wildlife. Collectively, we represent millions of Americans who enjoy the great outdoors and value fish and wildlife.

One-third of the fish and wildlife species in the United States are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered. The crisis facing our nation's fish and wildlife is daunting, but this legislation provides a solution. The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* will provide state fish and wildlife agencies and Indian Tribes with dedicated resources to address more than 12,000 species in need of proactive, voluntary conservation. The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* will help recover and conserve species at risk by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually for state-led conservation and \$97.5 million to Indian Tribes for on-the-ground conservation projects. The legislation funds the implementation of the congressionally-mandated State Wildlife Action Plans, which outline specific, science-based conservation actions necessary to recover and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations. Similarly, Tribes will expand conservation efforts on their lands, which provide vital habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species, including more than 500 species that are listed as threatened or endangered.

Taking measures to restore species before they are on the brink of extinction and ensuring healthy populations will help prevent these species from needing costly "emergency room" measures under the Endangered Species Act. Further, ensuring healthy populations of species will also allow businesses and landowners to operate with more regulatory certainty and reduced risk. This collaborative approach to conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, good for landowners, and good for business.

Our nation has a remarkable history of coming together to bring species back from the brink of extinction by funding professional, science-driven fish and wildlife management through partnerships. Eighty years ago, prized game species like elk, wood ducks, wild turkeys, and trout were at the cusp of being lost forever. Instead, hunters and anglers came together to leverage user fees for game species conservation because they understood that preserving wildlife takes a coordinated, consistent investment in collaborative conservation. Today those species are thriving because of that foresight and commitment.

Passage of the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* will represent the largest investment in conservation funding in more than a generation. This groundbreaking legislation will help ensure that future generations can enjoy the same abundant fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation opportunities that we have today and maybe even more. We appreciate your consideration of our request to support and advance this bill in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. We ask that you join Congresswoman Dingell (D-MI) and

Congressman Fortenberry (R-NE) and the 138 bipartisan cosponsors in supporting the *Recovering America's Wildlife Act*.

Sincerely,

**American Fisheries Society  
American Sportfishing Association  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Audubon  
Audubon Connecticut  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Barry Conservation District  
Bass Pro Shops  
Bat Conservation International  
Big Game Conservation Association  
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  
Bucks County Audubon Society  
Cabela's  
The Connecticut Audubon Society  
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
Connecticut Falconers Association  
Connecticut Ornithological Association  
Connecticut Waterfowlers Association  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
The Conservation Fund  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
Fisheries Advisory Council  
Flathead Audubon Society  
Forest Landowners Association  
Frankfort Audubon Society  
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society  
Grand Valley State University, Department of Biology  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
Hess Corporation  
Houston Safari Club Foundation  
Huron Pines  
I DO AMERICA  
International Raptor & Falconry Center  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Jacklin Rod and Gun Club, Inc.  
QuietKat, Inc.  
Kalamazoo Nature Center  
Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

**Kemp Design Services**  
**Kootenai Tribe of Idaho**  
**Lake Erie Islands Conservancy**  
**Maine Audubon**  
**Mattabeseck Audubon Society**  
**Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation**  
**Mojave Desert Land Trust**  
**Montana Audubon**  
**National Alliance of Forest Owners**  
**National Association of State Foresters**  
**National Marine Manufacturers Association**  
**National Shooting Sports Foundation**  
**National Wild Turkey Federation**  
**National Wildlife Federation**  
**Native American Fish and Wildlife Society**  
**Nebraska Land Trust**  
**North Dakota Natural Resources Trust**  
**Oregon Zoo**  
**Outdoor Industry Association**  
**Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs**  
**Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever**  
**Playa Lake Joint Venture**  
**Pure Fishing**  
**Put-in-Bay Township Park District**  
**Quality Deer Management Association**  
**Ravenswood Outdoors**  
**REI Co-op**  
**Richard Childress Racing**  
**Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society**  
**Seven Mountains Audubon**  
**Shell**  
**Stocking Savvy**  
**Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**  
**Toyota**  
**Trout Unlimited**  
**Village of Middleville, MI**  
**White River Marine Group**  
**Wildlife Ecology Institute**  
**Wildlife Habitat Council**  
**Wildlife Management Institute**  
**The Wildlife Society**  
**World Wildlife Fund**  
**Yellowstone River Parks Association**

cc: Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva, Ranking Member Rob Bishop